

TRENDS

How Out-of-State Claimants Affect Wyoming's Unemployment Rate

by: Lynae Mohondro, Senior Research Analyst

With an economy heavily dependent on oil and gas, the spike in Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims in Wyoming was not unexpected when oil prices plunged in late 2014. Even with evidence of job losses across the state, especially in the mining industry, Wyoming's unemployment rate remained steady between 4.0% and 4.2% without significant over-the-month changes from December 2014 to November 2015 (Bullard, 2016). This article looks at individuals all over the United States filing claims for UI benefits from a Wyoming employer and how they affect the unemployment rate.

According to Wyoming Statute 27-3-504, Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits are awarded to eligible individuals based on the location of their former employer (UI claimants). An individual is eligible for unemployment insurance if he or she was involuntarily separated from an employer through no fault of the UI claimant. Individuals claiming UI must also meet monetary criteria, such as having earned sufficient wages in the first four of five calendar quarters prior to filing a claim (Wen, 2015). According to Wen, if every worker in Wyoming lost their job, about three-fourths would meet the monetary criteria needed to collect UI benefits. Wen also

noted that 9.9% of all Wyoming workers are employed in the mining industry, the third largest private industry, and over 90% of these workers are eligible to claim unemployment insurance. In other words, if all workers from the mining industry (9.9% of total employment) lost their jobs, 90% — or more than 23,000 workers — would be eligible to collect UI benefits from an employer in Wyoming.

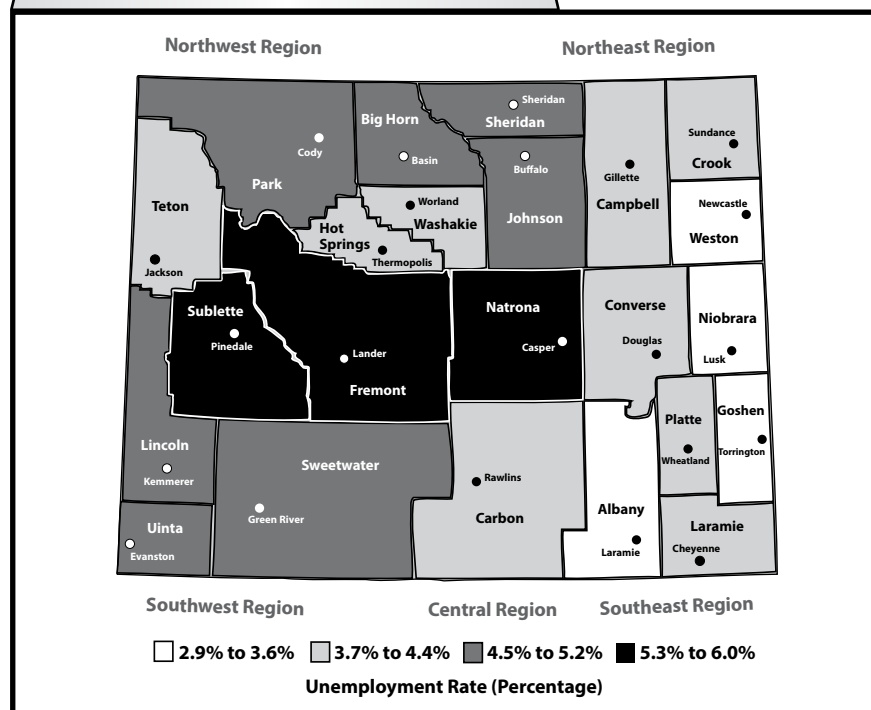
Unemployment Insurance claims are filed in the state where an individual earned wages. An out-of-state claimant is one who earned wages in Wyoming,

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HIGHLIGHTS

- The drop in crude oil prices has caused job losses in the mining and related sectors, but these job losses don't seem to be reflected in Wyoming's unemployment rate in 2015. In order to be counted as unemployed in Wyoming, a worker has to reside in the state and must be available to work and actively looking for a job. Detailed tabulations from the Current Population Survey for Wyoming can help provide some insight as to why Wyoming's unemployment rate remains low. ... *page 13*

Unemployment Rate by Wyoming County, December 2015 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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filed for UI benefits against a Wyoming employer, but resided in another state. In this study, if a claimant filed for UI benefits in one state and then moved to another state, the claimant was counted in the state in which he or she resided during the earliest week of the month.

The Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services publishes UI claims monthly in *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* (see pages 26-27) and online at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/ui.htm>. An initial claim takes place when an individual is separated from his or her job and files for unemployment (Harris, 2014). Continued claims are measured in total weeks claimed (Moore, 2015) and are more representative of the number of individuals who are collecting UI benefits than initial claims. If the individual is eligible to receive benefits, continued weeks claimed are counted.

This article, however, will focus on the persons, or unique claimants who have filed continued claims, with a special focus on claimants with a home address outside of Wyoming.

As previously mentioned, UI claims are counted based on location of employer. In contrast, the unemployment rate is estimated in the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program, which is based on the location of claimant residence, using interstate unemployment claims files given to states weekly by the U.S. Department of Labor (Bullard & Cowan, 2015). An individual who resides in Wyoming but loses a job in Colorado will count towards the Wyoming unemployment rate. For more information on LAUS, please see <http://doe.state>.

wy.us/LMI/laus.htm and <http://www.bls.gov/lau/>.

Wyoming's unemployment rate has remained well below the national unemployment rate and did not experience significant changes from December 2014 to December 2015, when it increased from 4.2% to 4.3% (Bullard, 2016; the unemployment news release can be found at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/releases.htm>). With the increase in UI claims indicating job losses, the unemployment rate would be expected to increase. But if a worker commutes to Wyoming to work and loses his job, he is not counted as unemployed in Wyoming. Approximately one-fourth of individuals claiming UI benefits in Wyoming are from another state and do not affect Wyoming's unemployment rate. The types of unemployed, depicted in the Box (see page 10) and related article (see page 13), reveal that job losers, and UI claimants as a subset of them, make up only a fraction of the unemployed.

In this article, claims activity is organized using a multi-state, regional concept. The U.S. Census Bureau groups the states into nine different divisions (see Table 1 and Figure 1, page 4).

The number of persons claiming UI benefits against a Wyoming employer follows a seasonal pattern, with more individuals claiming in the winter and early spring months and fewer individuals claiming in the summer (see Figure 2, page 5). In 2013 and 2014, the number of claimants peaked in February, with 9,078 and 7,521 persons claiming, respectively. In 2015, the number of individuals claiming UI benefits increased in most

(Text continued on page 5)

Table 1: U.S. Census Bureau Divisions

Division 1: New England	Division 2: Middle Atlantic	Division 3: East North Central	Division 4: West North Central	Division 5: South Atlantic	Division 6: East South Central	Division 7: West South Central	Division 8: Mountain	Division 9: Pacific
Connecticut	New Jersey	Indiana	Iowa	Delaware	Alabama	Arkansas	Arizona	Alaska
Maine	New York	Illinois	Kansas	District of Columbia	Kentucky	Louisiana	Colorado	California
Massachusetts	Pennsylvania	Michigan	Minnesota	Florida	Mississippi	Oklahoma	Idaho	Hawaii
New Hampshire		Ohio	Missouri	Georgia	Tennessee	Texas	New Mexico	Oregon
Rhode Island		Wisconsin	Nebraska	Maryland			Montana	Washington
Vermont		North Carolina	North Dakota	North Carolina			Utah	
		South Carolina	South Dakota	South Carolina			Nevada	
		Virginia		Virginia			Wyoming	
		West Virginia		West Virginia				

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (http://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/maps/reference/us_regdiv.pdf).

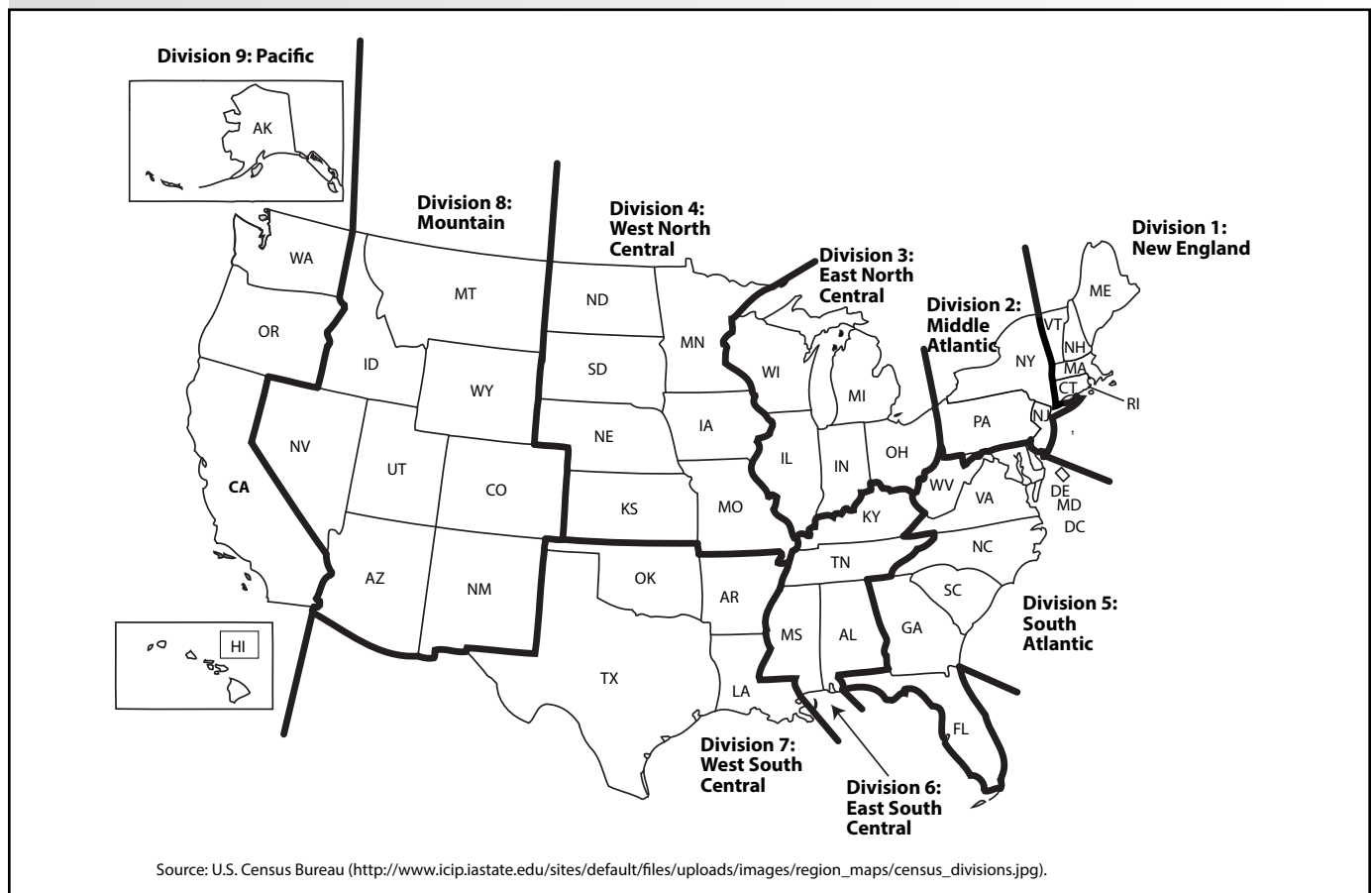


Figure 1: Map of U.S. Census Bureau Divisions

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months from the year before. The largest number of individuals filing for UI benefits in 2015 was 7,811 in March, a 13.5% increase from March 2014. The month with the fewest individuals claiming UI benefits was September, with 4,021 – a 37.9% increase from September 2014 (2,915; see Table 2a-2c, page 6).

Figure 3 (see page 7) shows the number of claimants from three Census divisions with the largest number of claims against a Wyoming employer and how these numbers have changed over time. The Mountain Division (Division 8), the division to which Wyoming is

assigned, made up about 88% of Wyoming UI claimants in 2015 (see Table 2a-2c). When eliminating Wyoming residents claiming UI benefits from this count, the states that make up Division 8 still contribute over 10% of persons claiming UI benefits. In every month during 2015, over 11% of UI claimants resided in the Mountain Division, but outside of Wyoming (see Table 2c). Five of the six states with the most individuals filing UI claims from a Wyoming employer are also included in the Mountain Division: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, and Utah.

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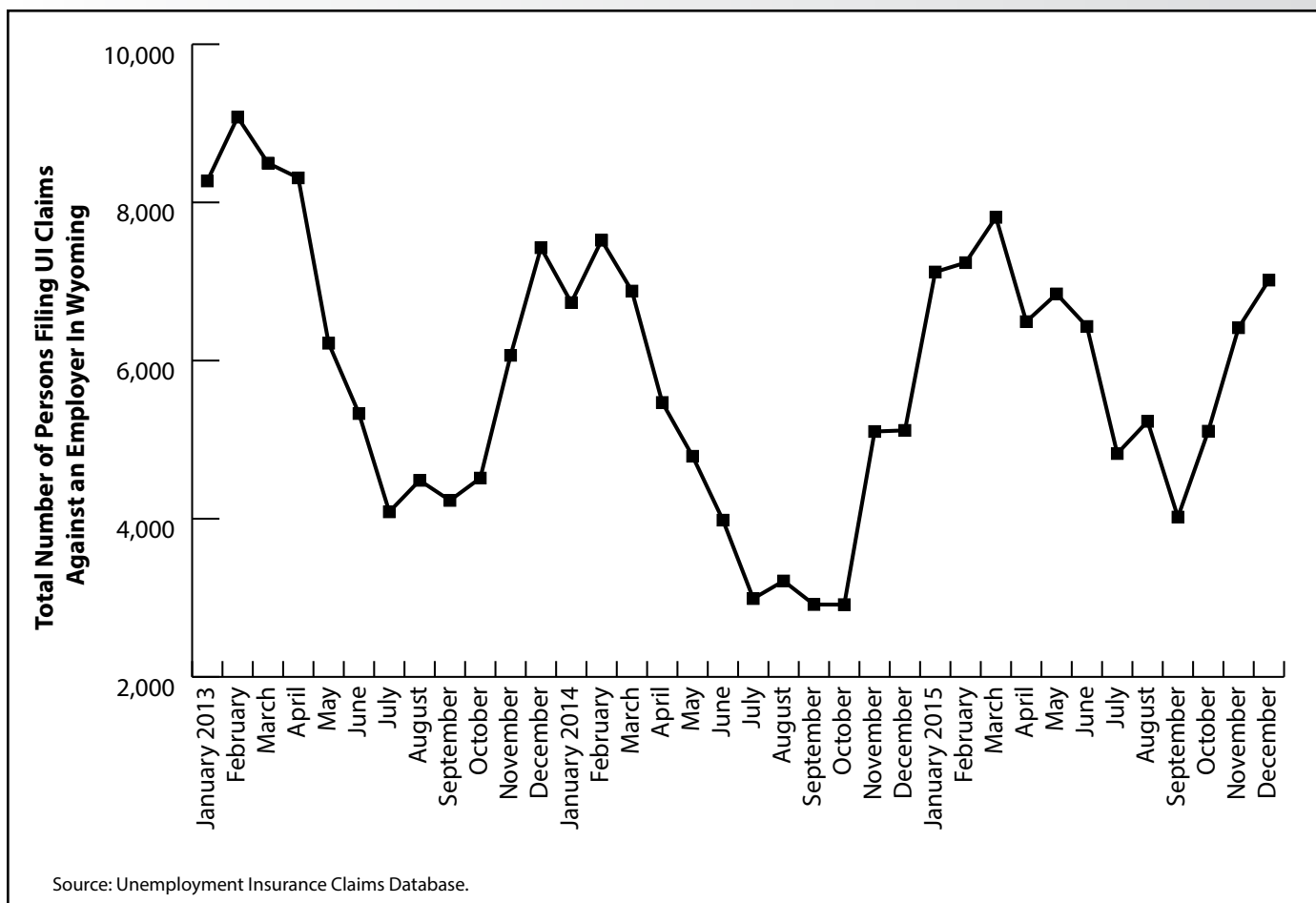


Figure 2: Total Number of Persons Filing Unemployment Insurance Claims Against an Employer in Wyoming, January 2013 to December 2015

Table 2: Number and Percent of Wyoming Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claimants by Census Division, 2013 to 2015

Division ^a	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	10	0.1	11	0.1	12	0.1	14	0.2	9	0.1	5	0.1	N/D	N/D	5	0.1	4	0.1	11	0.2	10	0.2	10	0.1
2	42	0.5	44	0.5	37	0.4	35	0.4	20	0.3	12	0.2	9	0.2	9	0.2	9	0.2	19	0.4	31	0.5	28	0.4
3	148	1.8	148	1.6	145	1.7	149	1.8	80	1.3	63	1.2	50	1.2	46	1.0	42	1.0	80	1.8	139	2.3	134	1.8
4	203	2.5	179	2.0	160	1.9	147	1.8	115	1.8	111	2.1	90	2.2	94	2.1	82	1.9	91	2.0	124	2.0	167	2.2
5	136	1.6	124	1.4	120	1.4	103	1.2	71	1.1	64	1.2	47	1.1	47	1.0	51	1.2	84	1.9	146	2.4	136	1.8
6	93	1.1	82	0.9	86	1.0	107	1.3	88	1.4	89	1.7	66	1.6	79	1.8	82	1.9	67	1.5	92	1.5	117	1.6
7	284	3.4	244	2.7	254	3.0	289	3.5	214	3.4	244	4.6	199	4.9	257	5.7	217	5.1	153	3.4	239	3.9	285	3.8
8	7147	86.4	8044	88.6	7482	88.1	7263	87.4	5467	87.9	4614	86.6	3537	86.5	3869	86.3	3655	86.4	3884	86.0	5069	83.6	6339	85.4
8 (exc. WY)	907	11.0	979	10.8	901	10.6	882	10.6	679	10.9	566	10.6	423	10.3	456	10.2	427	10.1	573	12.7	786	13.0	869	11.7
9 (exc. WY)	202	2.4	199	2.2	197	2.3	200	2.4	151	2.4	122	2.3	83	2.0	75	1.7	85	2.0	122	2.7	213	3.5	206	2.8
Total	8,271	100.0	9,078	100.0	8,497	100.0	8,310	100.0	6,219	100.0	5,330	100.0	4,087	100.0	4,485	100.0	4,231	100.0	4,514	100.0	6,066	100.0	7,427	100.0

Table 2b: Number and Percent of UI Claimants By Census Division, 2014

Division ^a	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
	Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Employment Statistics, 2014.																							
1	7	0.1	8	0.1	11	0.2	9	0.2	7	0.1	5	0.1	8	0.3	7	0.2	6	0.2	12	0.4	21	0.4	10	0.2
2	25	0.4	27	0.4	30	0.4	25	0.5	12	0.3	3	0.1	5	0.2	7	0.2	5	0.2	17	0.6	32	0.6	30	0.6
3	97	1.4	114	1.5	111	1.6	91	1.7	55	1.1	36	0.9	39	1.3	48	1.5	50	1.7	67	2.3	119	2.3	93	1.8
4	153	2.3	174	2.3	141	2.0	92	1.7	71	1.5	58	1.5	47	1.6	63	2.0	51	1.7	58	2.0	124	2.4	141	2.8
5	105	1.6	107	1.4	95	1.4	81	1.5	66	1.4	73	1.8	49	1.6	48	1.5	34	1.2	58	2.0	121	2.4	103	2.0
6	89	1.3	72	1.0	66	1.0	53	1.0	49	1.0	53	1.3	43	1.4	36	1.1	34	1.2	38	1.3	60	1.2	61	1.2
7	236	3.5	217	2.9	202	2.9	159	2.9	117	2.4	160	4.0	155	5.2	150	4.7	107	3.7	91	3.1	155	3.0	186	3.6
8	5,855	87.0	6,615	88.0	6,047	87.9	4,821	88.1	4,300	89.8	3,507	88.1	2,570	86.0	2,782	86.6	2,556	87.7	2,457	84.3	4,287	84.0	4,324	84.5
9	709	10.5	737	9.8	691	10.0	568	10.4	518	10.8	441	11.1	330	11.0	340	10.6	322	11.0	333	11.4	600	11.8	609	11.9
8 (exc. WY)	161	2.4	182	2.4	172	2.5	135	2.5	107	2.2	83	2.1	69	2.3	66	2.1	64	2.2	111	3.8	180	3.5	165	3.2
Total	6,733	100.0	7,521	100.0	6,879	100.0	5,470	100.0	4,790	100.0	3,982	100.0	2,990	100.0	3,213	100.0	2,915	100.0	2,914	100.0	5,103	100.0	5,117	100.0

Table 2c: Number and Percent of UI Claimants By Census Division, 2015

Division ^a	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1	5	0.1	4	0.1	8	0.1	10	0.2	7	0.1	5	0.1	3	0.1	N/D	N/D	4	0.1	11	0.2	15	0.2	12	0.2
2	24	0.3	30	0.4	30	0.4	25	0.4	23	0.3	18	0.3	14	0.3	12	0.2	11	0.3	18	0.4	37	0.6	29	0.4
3	98	1.4	106	1.5	110	1.4	94	1.4	79	1.2	66	1.0	49	1.0	50	1.0	34	0.8	66	1.3	110	1.7	84	1.2
4	185	2.6	164	2.3	156	2.0	142	2.2	156	2.3	135	2.1	97	2.0	100	1.9	86	2.1	101	2.0	128	2.0	131	1.9
5	121	1.7	96	1.3	93	1.2	79	1.2	73	1.1	59	0.9	56	1.2	66	1.3	38	0.9	84	1.6	106	1.7	96	1.4
6	63	0.9	58	0.8	55	0.7	55	0.8	57	0.8	58	0.9	43	0.9	48	0.9	37	0.9	37	0.7	58	0.9	64	0.9
7	248	3.5	234	3.2	235	3.0	203	3.1	240	3.5	240	3.7	202	4.2	217	4.1	151	3.8	146	2.9	191	3.0	206	2.9
8	6,191	87.0	6,361	87.9	6,925	88.7	5,713	88.0	6,045	88.3	5,708	88.8	4,248	88.1	4,621	88.3	3,562	88.6	4,485	87.8	5,570	86.8	6,216	88.6
8 (exc. WV)	791	11.1	827	11.4	939	12.0	802	12.4	867	12.7	811	12.6	617	12.8	657	12.6	501	12.5	621	12.2	772	12.0	815	11.6
9	176	2.5	177	2.4	191	2.4	161	2.5	151	2.2	133	2.1	104	2.2	109	2.1	93	2.3	153	3.0	198	3.1	174	2.5
Total	7,120	100.0	7,238	100.0	7,811	100.0	6,492	100.0	6,843	100.0	6,431	100.0	4,824	100.0	5,231	100.0	4,021	100.0	5,107	100.0	6,415	100.0	7,017	100.0

Source: Unemployment Insurance Claims Database.

^aU.S. Census Bureau Divisions; see Table 1 for a list of states in each division.

(Text continued from page 5)

The number of claimants from the Mountain Division, excluding Wyoming, followed the same seasonal pattern as the total number of individuals filing for UI benefits in Wyoming and increased from 2014 to 2015. As shown in Tables 2a-2c, there were 901 unique out-of-state claimants that filed continued claims in March 2013, and 691 unique out-of-state claimants in March 2014. In March

2015, the number of unique out-of-state claimants increased 35.9% to 939; this was the month during which the largest number of individuals from the Mountain Division filed for UI benefits in 2015.

In September 2015 – the month with the fewest unique individuals claiming UI benefits against a Wyoming employer in 2015 – there were 501 unique claimants, a 55.6% increase from 322 in September 2014.

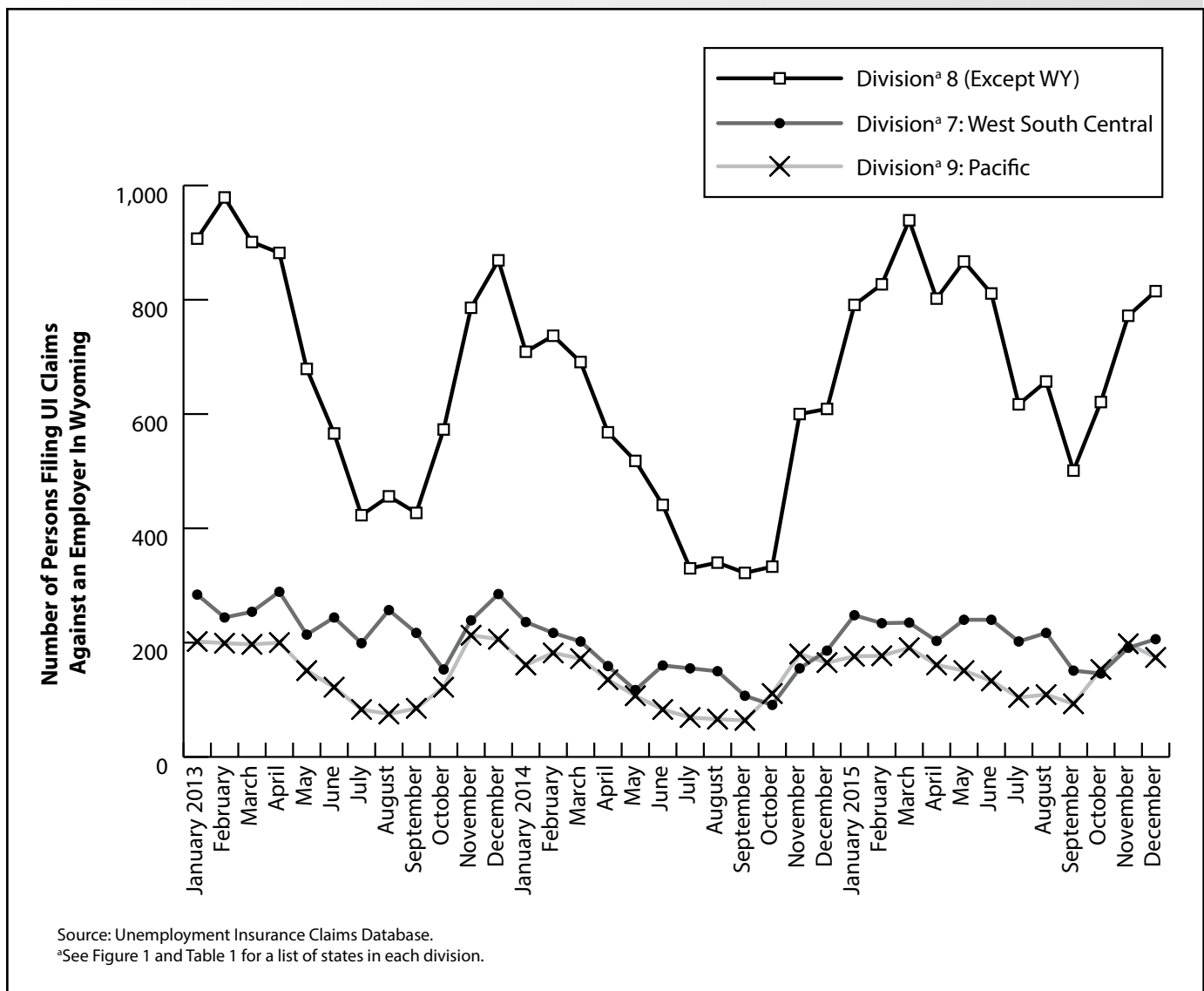


Figure 3: Number of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claimants by Census Division with the Greatest Number of UI Claims Against a Wyoming Employer, January 2013 to December 2015

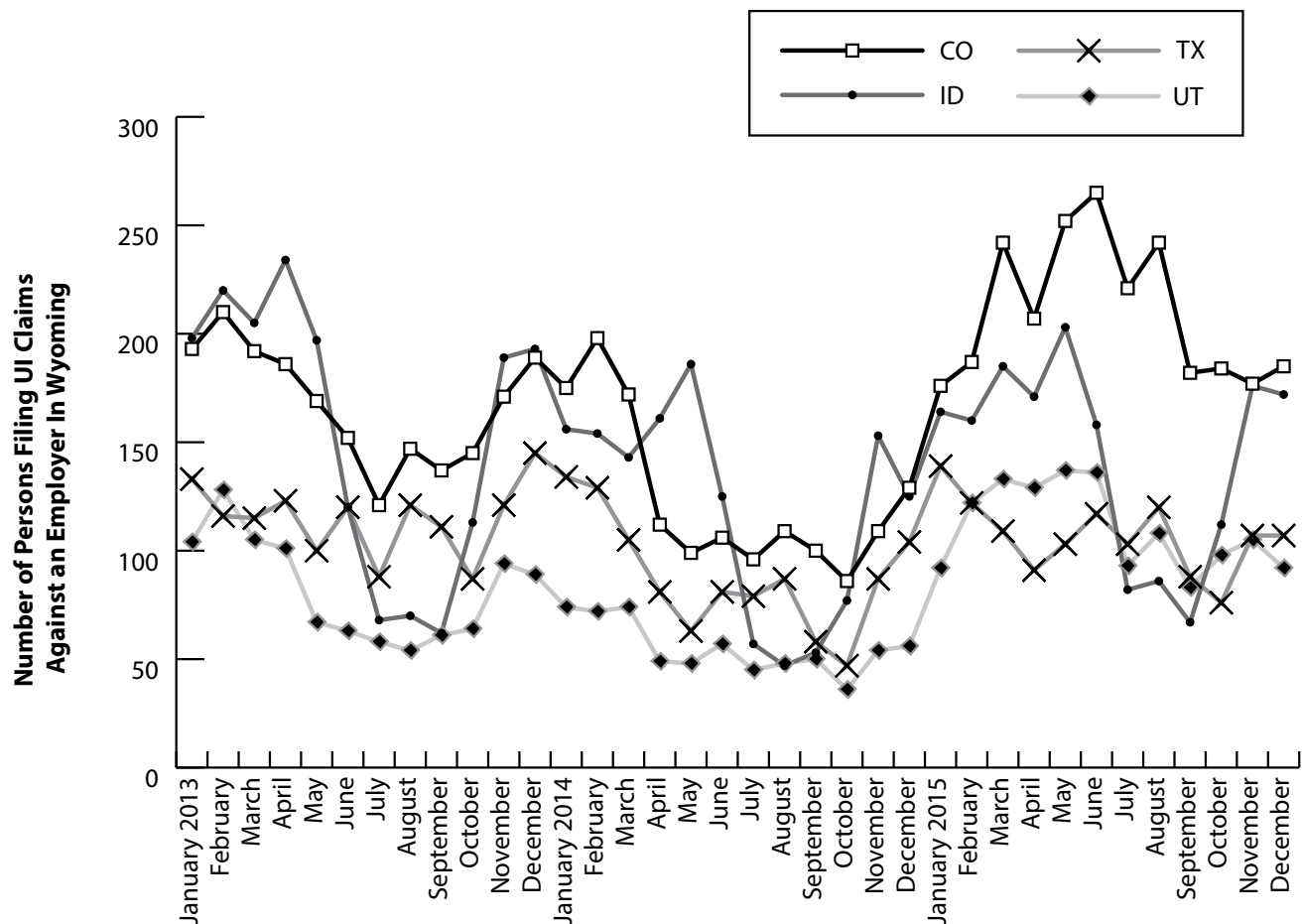
The four states with the largest number of residents claiming UI benefits against a Wyoming employer were Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Texas; this is shown in Figure 4.

The largest number of unique out-of-state claimants came from Colorado. Since 2013, Colorado has contributed at least 2.0% of all UI claimants in Wyoming, with 242 claimants (4.6% of the total) in August 2015 (see Table 3a-3c, page 9). The number of Colorado residents claiming UI benefits against a Wyoming employer in 2015 peaked in June (265 claimants, an

increase of 150.0% from 106 claimants in June 2014).

As shown in Table 3a-3c, individuals from Idaho filing for UI benefits against a Wyoming employer also made up a higher percentage of Wyoming UI claimants than most other states. The percentage of claimants residing in Idaho peaked in May and again in November every year since 2013. In May 2014, 186 (3.9%) out-of-state claimants were from Idaho and in November 2014, 153

(Text continued on page 11)



Source: Unemployment Insurance Claims Database.

Figure 4: Number of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claimants by State with the Greatest Number of UI Claims Against a Wyoming Employer, January 2013 to December 2015

Table 3: Number and Percent of UI Claimants From the Census Mountain Division and Texas, 2013 to 2015
 Table 3a: Number and Percent of UI Claimants From the Census Mountain Division and Texas, 2013

State	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
AZ	170	2.1	179	2.0	143	1.7	128	1.5	101	1.6	121	2.3	96	2.3	109	2.4	94	2.2	94	2.1	127	2.1	140	1.9
CO	193	2.3	210	2.3	192	2.3	186	2.2	169	2.7	152	2.9	121	3.0	147	3.3	137	3.2	145	3.2	171	2.8	189	2.5
ID	198	2.4	220	2.4	205	2.4	234	2.8	197	3.2	120	2.3	68	1.7	70	1.6	62	1.5	113	2.5	189	3.1	193	2.6
MT	158	1.9	165	1.8	178	2.1	164	2.0	93	1.5	59	1.1	43	1.1	43	1.0	43	1.0	120	2.7	159	2.6	201	2.7
NM	38	0.5	31	0.3	29	0.3	29	0.3	23	0.4	20	0.4	15	0.4	12	0.3	8	0.2	11	0.2	18	0.3	19	0.3
NV	44	0.5	43	0.5	46	0.5	36	0.4	26	0.4	28	0.5	19	0.5	19	0.4	19	0.4	23	0.5	27	0.4	34	0.5
TX	133	1.6	116	1.3	115	1.4	123	1.5	100	1.6	120	2.3	88	2.2	121	2.7	111	2.6	87	1.9	121	2.0	145	2.0
UT	104	1.3	128	1.4	105	1.2	101	1.2	67	1.1	63	1.2	58	1.4	54	1.2	61	1.4	64	1.4	94	1.5	89	1.2
WY	6,240	75.4	7,064	77.8	6,580	77.4	6,381	76.8	4,787	77.0	4,048	75.9	3,114	76.2	3,413	76.1	3,228	76.3	3,311	73.3	4,282	70.6	5,469	73.6
All Other States	989	12.0	919	10.1	899	10.6	923	11.1	652	10.5	595	11.2	461	11.3	494	11.0	464	11.0	542	12.0	875	14.4	942	12.7
Total	8,271	100.0	9,078	100.0	8,497	100.0	8,310	100.0	6,219	100.0	5,330	100.0	4,087	100.0	4,485	100.0	4,231	100.0	4,514	100.0	6,066	100.0	7,427	100.0

Table 3a: Number and Percent of UI Claimants From the Census Mountain Division and Texas, 2014

State	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
AZ	115	1.7	116	1.5	98	1.4	73	1.3	61	1.3	77	1.9	71	2.4	76	2.4	59	2.0	45	1.5	89	1.7	103	2.0
CO	175	2.6	198	2.6	172	2.5	112	2.0	99	2.1	106	2.7	96	3.2	109	3.4	100	3.4	86	3.0	109	2.1	129	2.5
ID	156	2.3	154	2.0	143	2.1	161	2.9	186	3.9	125	3.1	57	1.9	47	1.5	53	1.8	77	2.6	153	3.0	125	2.4
MT	132	2.0	134	1.8	143	2.1	110	2.0	64	1.3	29	0.7	25	0.8	31	1.0	34	1.2	52	1.8	128	2.5	133	2.6
NM	21	0.3	24	0.3	23	0.3	21	0.4	22	0.5	17	0.4	12	0.4	12	0.4	12	0.4	16	0.5	28	0.5	31	0.6
NV	32	0.5	35	0.5	34	0.5	38	0.7	34	0.7	28	0.7	21	0.7	14	0.4	10	0.3	19	0.7	36	0.7	30	0.6
TX	134	2.0	129	1.7	105	1.5	81	1.5	63	1.3	81	2.0	79	2.6	87	2.7	58	2.0	47	1.6	87	1.7	104	2.0
UT	74	1.1	72	1.0	74	1.1	49	0.9	48	1.0	57	1.4	45	1.5	48	1.5	50	1.7	36	1.2	54	1.1	56	1.1
WY	5,145	76.4	5,877	78.1	5,356	77.9	4,252	77.7	3,782	79.0	3,065	77.0	2,239	74.9	2,441	76.0	2,234	76.6	2,124	72.9	3,686	72.2	3,715	72.6
All Other States	743	11.0	776	10.3	726	10.6	568	10.4	425	8.9	394	9.9	340	11.4	344	10.7	299	10.3	409	14.0	728	14.3	687	13.4
Total	6,733	100.0	7,521	100.0	6,879	100.0	5,470	100.0	4,790	100.0	3,982	100.0	2,990	100.0	3,213	100.0	2,915	100.0	2,914	100.0	5,103	100.0	5,117	100.0

Table 3a: Number and Percent of UI Claimants From the Census Mountain Division and Texas, 2015

State	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
AZ	143	2.0	137	1.9	129	1.7	97	1.5	87	1.3	98	1.5	94	1.9	101	1.9	75	1.9	75	1.5	108	1.7	147	2.1
CO	176	2.5	187	2.6	242	3.1	207	3.2	252	3.7	265	4.1	221	4.6	242	4.6	182	4.5	184	3.6	177	2.8	185	2.6
ID	164	2.3	160	2.2	185	2.4	171	2.6	203	3.0	158	2.5	82	1.7	86	1.6	67	1.7	112	2.2	176	2.7	172	2.5
MT	137	1.9	137	1.9	156	2.0	127	2.0	115	1.7	89	1.4	71	1.5	68	1.3	56	1.4	99	1.9	143	2.2	159	2.3
NM	38	0.5	38	0.5	40	0.5	23	0.4	25	0.4	30	0.5	28	0.6	25	0.5	19	0.5	20	0.4	31	0.5	30	0.4
NV	37	0.5	43	0.6	51	0.7	45	0.7	44	0.6	33	0.5	25	0.5	23	0.4	17	0.4	30	0.6	30	0.5	28	0.4
TX	139	2.0	122	1.7	109	1.4	91	1.4	103	1.5	117	1.8	103	2.1	120	2.3	88	2.2	76	1.5	107	1.7	107	1.5
UT	92	1.3	122	1.7	133	1.7	129	2.0	137	2.0	136	2.1	93	1.9	108	2.1	83	2.1	98	1.9	105	1.6	92	1.3
WY	5,400	75.8	5,534	76.5	5,986	76.6	4,911	75.6	5,178	75.7	4,896	76.1	3,631	75.3	3,964	75.8	3,061	76.1	3,864	75.7	4,797	74.8	5,400	77.0
All Other States	789	11.1	754	10.4	776	9.9	686	10.6	693	10.1	605	9.4	471	9.8	490	9.4	370	9.2	544	10.7	739	11.5	693	9.9
Total	7,120	100.0	7,238	100.0	7,811	100.0	6,492	100.0	6,843	100.0	6,431	100.0	4,824	100.0	5,231	100.0	4,021	100.0	5,107	100.0	6,415	100.0	7,017	100.0

Source: Unemployment Insurance Claims Database.

Box: Current Population Survey (CPS) Definition of Unemployment

The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a household survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and is used to estimate unemployment. The reasons for unemployment are divided into four major groups:

1. Job losers, defined as:
 - persons on temporary layoff, who have been given a date to return to work or who expect to return within 6 months (persons on layoff need not be looking for work to be classified as unemployed)
 - permanent job losers, whose employment ended involuntarily and who began looking for work
 - persons who completed a temporary job, and who began looking for work after the job ended
2. Job leavers, defined as persons who quit or otherwise terminated their employment

voluntarily and immediately began looking for work.

3. Reentrants, defined as persons who previously worked but were out of the labor force prior to beginning their job search.
4. New entrants, defined as persons who never had

worked but were searching for work.

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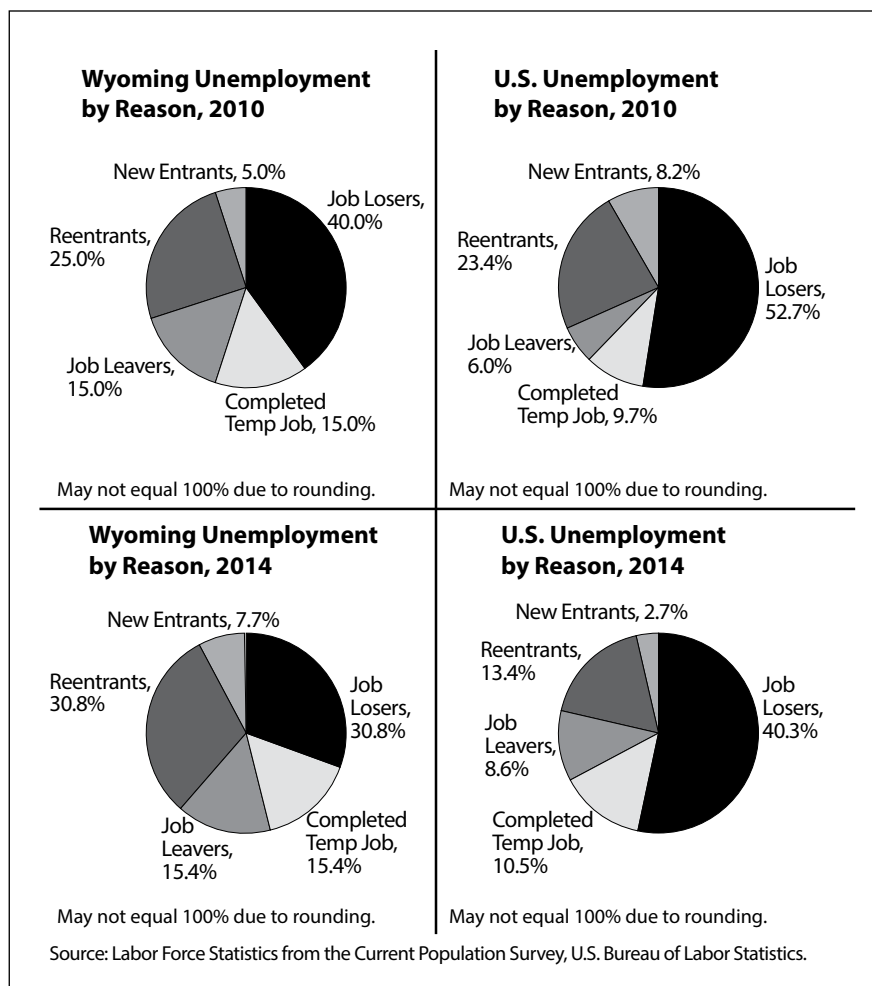


Figure: Unemployed Persons by Reason for Unemployment in Wyoming and the U.S., 2010 and 2014 Annual Averages

(Text continued from page 8)

(3.0%) claimants resided in Idaho. The number of individuals residing in Idaho claiming UI benefits against a Wyoming employer reached 203 claimants (3.0%) in May 2015 and 176 claimants (2.7%) in November 2015. This pattern could be due to individuals filing for unemployment benefits after their seasonal jobs in the northwestern region of Wyoming end when the tourist season is in decline.

Figure 4 also shows that the number of claimants from Utah fluctuated much less with the seasons compared to claimants from other states. The number of claimants from Utah increased from prior year levels in January 2015, a trend that continued throughout the year. The drop in oil prices and related layoffs in oil fields in southwestern Wyoming may have influenced this increase in the number of claimants from Utah.

Division 7, or the West South Central Division, includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas (see Table 1 and Figure 1) and had the second highest number of claimants in Wyoming. The West South Central Division accounted for 2.9% to 4.2% of persons claiming UI benefits against a Wyoming employer each month in 2015, the second highest of all Census divisions (see Table 2a-2c). In May 2015, 240 individuals from Division 7 filed a claim, a 105.1 % increase from May 2014. The high number of West South Central Division claimants in Wyoming may be due to the predominance of oil and gas in that division's economy.

Approximately half of the individuals claiming from Division 7 resided in Texas, one of the six states with the largest number of persons claiming UI benefits against a Wyoming employer. The number

of claimants from Texas increased 63.5%, from 63 claimants in May 2014 to 103 in May 2015 (see Table 3a-3c).

The division with the third highest number of out-of-state claimants was Division 9, or the Pacific Division (see Figure 3). This division includes Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. The Pacific Division made up at least 2.1% of all individuals claiming UI benefits against a Wyoming employer in 2015 (see Table 2c). During the summer months of 2015, the number of claimants increased by nearly 50% from the previous year.

Conclusion

Wyoming's economy attracts workers from all over the country, especially from states that share a border with Wyoming and those states with economies that also depend on oil, coal, and gas. When workers migrate into Wyoming to work in the mining industry, they could also bring family members to work in other industry sectors. While it appears from UI claims that the number of unemployed individuals has increased significantly in the state, approximately one-fourth of those unemployed may have returned to their home state and do not affect the unemployment rate in Wyoming.

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Occupation Spotlight: Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers

Occupational Employment Statistics

Standard Occupational Classification Code: 33-3051. Maintain order, enforce laws and ordinances, and protect life and property in an assigned patrol district. Perform combination of following duties: patrol a specific area on foot or in a vehicle; direct traffic; issue traffic summonses; investigate accidents; apprehend and arrest suspects, or serve legal processes of courts.

Statewide Estimated Employment: 1,170
Mean Hourly Wage: \$25.44

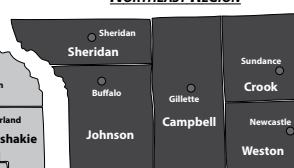
Northwest Region

Employment: 120
Mean Hourly Wage: \$22.91

NORTHWEST REGION



NORTHEAST REGION



Northeast Region

Employment: 210
Mean Hourly Wage: \$26.73

Casper MSA

Employment: 150
Mean Hourly Wage: \$27.03

CASPER MSA



Cheyenne MSA

Employment: 170
Mean Hourly Wage: \$25.10

CHEYENNE MSA

Southwest Region

Employment: 280
Mean Hourly Wage: \$26.84

SOUTHWEST REGION

CENTRAL-SOUTHEAST REGION

Central-Southeast Region

Employment: 240
Mean Hourly Wage: \$23.18

Source: Occupational Employment Statistics, September 2015 (<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/oes.htm>).

Current Population Survey Estimates for Wyoming: What Does the State's Unemployment Rate Really Mean?

by: Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor, and David Bullard, Senior Economist

This article looks at the characteristics of unemployment collected from the Current Population Survey (CPS) for 2014 compared to 2015 in order to understand what is happening in the Wyoming labor market. The CPS is a monthly survey of households that the U.S. Census Bureau conducts in each state for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Reviewing the detailed data underlying the total estimate of unemployment can provide clues as to the functioning of Wyoming's labor market.

The drop in crude oil prices has caused job losses in the mining and related sectors, but these job losses don't seem to be reflected in Wyoming's unemployment rate in 2015. In order to be counted as unemployed in Wyoming, a worker has to reside in the state and must be available to work and actively looking for a job. Detailed tabulations from the CPS for Wyoming can help provide some insight as to why Wyoming's unemployment rate remains low.

Data collected from the CPS includes reasons why civilians are not in the labor force, reasons for unemployment, duration of unemployment, and full- and part-time work status. Due to the small Wyoming sample for the CPS, the data lack reliability on a monthly basis. Therefore, we start by looking at annual average data (12 months of labor force estimates divided by 12). Generalized sampling error information for the CPS annual average data for states can be found in appendix tables B-4 and B-5 of the Geographic Profile bulletin at <http://www.bls.gov/opub/gp/gpapndb.htm>. Additional limitations of state data from the CPS

Wyoming's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate

December 2015: 4.3%

December 2014: 4.1%

For more information, see page 21.

can be found at <http://www.bls.gov/gps/notescps.htm>. The data used in this article are unofficial, unpublished estimates from the Current Population Survey.

The labor force is the sum of employed and unemployed persons. People who are not in the labor force are those who do not have a job and are not looking for one. The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing the number of unemployed by the labor force. Therefore, if people leave Wyoming's labor force, the unemployment rate might not drop as much as job losses would suggest. People might leave Wyoming's labor force by moving out of state or by losing their job and not looking for a new one.

The CPS collects five reasons for unemployment (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2006):

- *Job losers* include persons on temporary layoff, meaning they expect to return to work within six months, and *permanent job losers*, whose employment ended involuntarily and who began looking for work. In most cases, unemployment insurance (UI) claimants would be in the job loser category.

- *Job leavers* are persons who voluntarily quit their job and started looking for a new job.
- Persons who completed temporary jobs, and started looking for a new job when their previous job ended.
- *Reentrants* are persons who previously worked but who were out of the labor force prior to beginning their job search.
- *New entrants* are persons who have never worked.

Table 1 shows that on an annual average basis, the number of job losers increased from 4,800 to 5,600 from 2014 to 2015. Of those, 2,800 were permanent job losers in 2014. In 2015 this number rose to 3,400. These data are consistent with reports of layoffs in Wyoming's oil & gas sector.

The number of entrants into the labor force was down from 5,400 in 2014 to 3,700 in 2015. This includes new entrants and reentrants.

Some individuals may be delaying entry or reentry into Wyoming's labor market because they believe that there are few jobs available. Thus, while a downturn

in the state's economy can cause an increase in one component of unemployment (job losers), it may also be associated with decreases in other components (e.g. entrants). Additionally, some job losers may have moved to other states and no longer count in Wyoming's labor force.

In contrast to Table 1, which shows averages for 12 months of 2014 and 2015, Table 2 focuses on the fourth quarter (October, November, and December). From fourth quarter 2014 (2014Q4) to fourth quarter 2015 (2015Q4), the estimated number of unemployed rose

from 12,400 to 14,300, an increase of 1,900 people (15.3%). The number of unemployed individuals classified as job losers rose by 48.0%, while the number of job leavers (-4.5%) and entrants (-7.7%) both decreased.

The Figure (see page 15) illustrates the data in a bar chart and shows that the largest increase from 2014Q4 to 2015Q4 was in the job loser category. This is consistent with a large increase in unemployment insurance (UI) claims in Wyoming. The number of continued UI weeks claimed rose from 19,747 in December

Table 1: Unemployed Persons by Reason for Unemployment in Wyoming, 2014 and 2015 Annual Averages

	2014	2015	Change	% Change
Total Unemployed	13,500	12,500	-1,000	-7.4%
Job Losers	4,800	5,600	800	16.7%
Permanent Job Losers	2,800	3,400	600	21.4%
Job Leavers	2,100	1,800	-300	-14.3%
Entrants	5,400	3,700	-1,700	-31.5%
Reentrants	4,500	3,200	-1,300	-28.9%
New Entrants	900	500	-400	-44.4%

Source: Current Population Survey, unpublished data.

Table 2: Unemployed Persons by Reason for Unemployment in Wyoming, Fourth Quarter 2014 (2014Q4) and Fourth Quarter 2015 (2015Q4)

	2014	2015	Change	% Change
Total Unemployed	12,400	14,300	1,900	15.3%
Job Losers	5,000	7,400	2,400	48.0%
Permanent Job Losers	2,100	3,700	1,600	76.2%
Job Leavers	2,200	2,100	-100	-4.5%
Entrants	5,200	4,800	-400	-7.7%
Reentrants	4,500	4,200	-300	-6.7%
New Entrants	700	600	-100	-14.3%

Source: Current Population Survey, unpublished data.

2014 to 27,479 in December 2015, an increase of 39.2% (Research & Planning, 2016).

In conclusion, it is widely known that the decrease in crude oil prices in 2015 contributed to large job losses in Wyoming's energy sector. However, these job losses did not directly translate into an increase in the state's unemployment rate because the increase in job losers was partially offset by a decline in entrants. Even when the unemployment rate remains stable over time, the underlying components (job losers, entrants, and

job leavers) can change dramatically, and changes in these components provide valuable clues as to the health of Wyoming's labor market. The analysis presented in this article also supports the notion that similar unemployment rates can mean different things at different times in the business cycle. Individuals or programs that rely exclusively on a state's unemployment rate as a measure of its economic condition face many risks, including completely misunderstanding the direction of the state's economy (NASWA, 2015).

All data users would be well-advised to review a cross-section of economic indicators when evaluating a state's economy.

References

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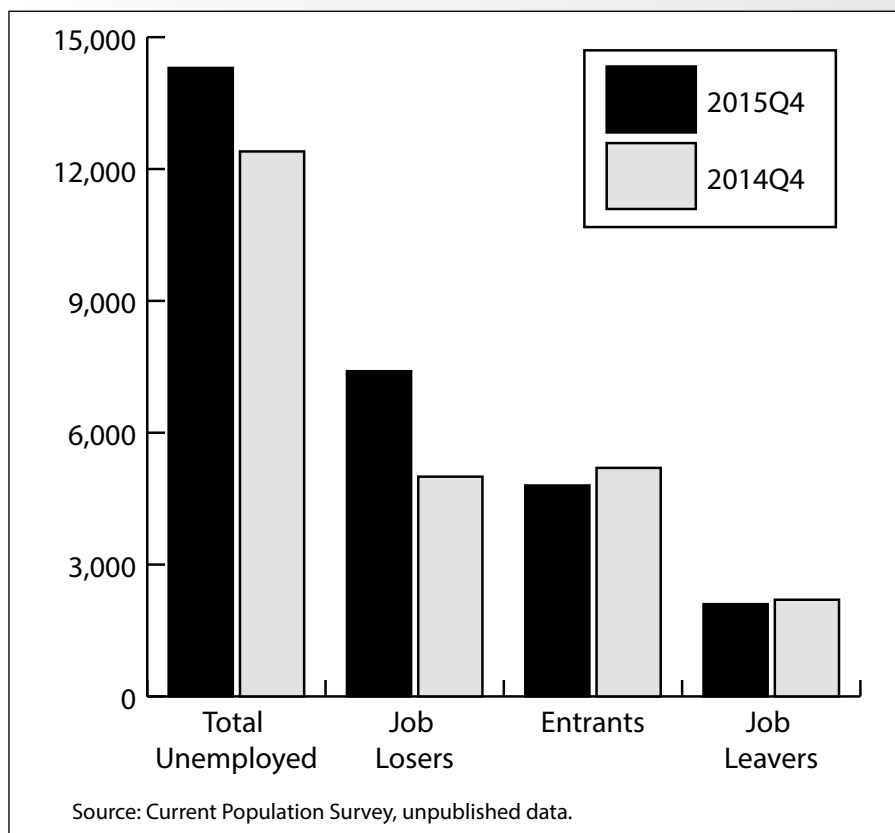


Figure: Unemployed Persons by Reason for Unemployment in Wyoming, Fourth Quarter 2014 (2014Q4) and Fourth Quarter 2015 (2015Q4)

The Education and Work Experience of Youth in Wyoming's Counties

Excerpted from Occasional Paper No. 8: The Education and Work Experience of Youth in Wyoming's Counties

by: Lynae Mohondro, Senior Research Analyst

Since the late 1990s, the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Department of Workforce Services has used administrative records in labor market studies, resulting in a better understanding of Wyoming's labor force, market conditions, and dynamics. The administrative databases used for this study include unemployment insurance (UI) employer tax records, driver's license database, and student records from the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) and the Wyoming Community College Commission. Taken together, these datasets provide demographics, work history, and student data that allow further exploration of worker interaction with educational opportunity.

Once a student completes high school, he or she has many options for the future. Many Wyoming students enroll in a Wyoming community college, the University of Wyoming, or an out-of-state postsecondary institution, while others go directly into the workforce. This publication discusses the different pathways the senior class of 2010 is taking and how they differ among the counties in Wyoming. Students who are deceased or have moved out of the country or to a state that does not have a data sharing agreement with R&P are not accounted for in the current analysis.

This publication uses longitudinal analysis to explore the different paths taken by 2010 high school seniors. A longitudinal analysis begins with a cohort at a single point in time and follows the cohort to measure the changes that occur over time. In this case, the term *cohort*

This article is excerpted from *Occasional Paper No. 8: The Education and Work Experience of Youth in Wyoming's Counties*.

This report includes an analysis of the following topics:

- Graduates
- Postsecondary Education Enrollment
- Students in the Workforce

The full report is available online at <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/occasional/occ8.pdf>.

refers to the high school senior class of 2010.

Graduates

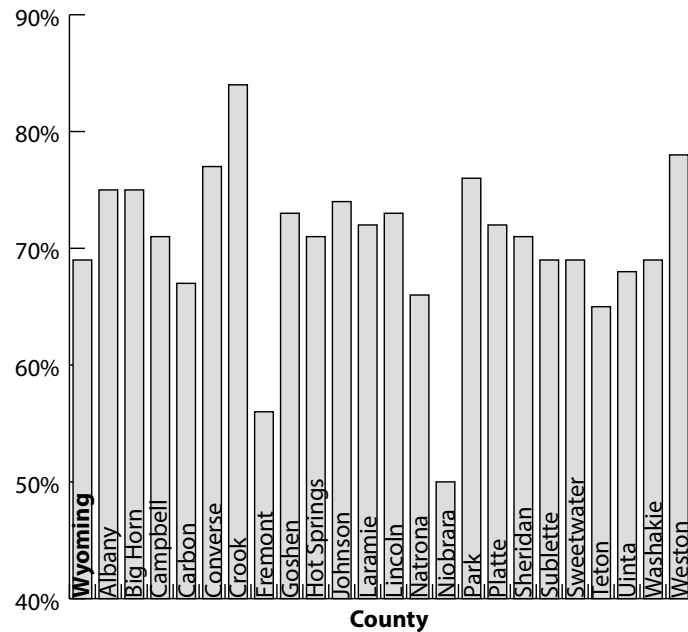
In 2010, 7,919 students made up the senior class and 5,481 seniors (69%) in Wyoming earned their high school diploma. The percentage of students who graduated by county ranged from 50% (Niobrara County) to 84% (Crook County). Fourteen out of the 23 Wyoming counties had a higher percentage of graduates than the state as a whole (see Figure 1, page 17).

Postsecondary Education Enrollment

Through a memorandum of understanding with the Wyoming Department of Education, R&P has access to the postsecondary education enrollment of Wyoming high school

students in any state in the U.S. In 2010, 42% (3,287) of 2010 Wyoming seniors enrolled in postsecondary education. Of those 3,287 enrolled, 1,764 (54%) were female and 1,523 (46%) were male. The county with the highest percentage of students enrolled in postsecondary education was Goshen County (62%) and the lowest was Sweetwater County (31%).

In 2011, the percentage of 2010 seniors in Wyoming enrolled in postsecondary education declined slightly



Source: Custom extract from the Workforce Data Quality Initiative database.

Figure 1: Percentage of 2010 Wyoming Seniors who Graduated High School by County

Table: Longitudinal Analysis: Wyoming Counties Ranked by Proportion of Wyoming 2010 Seniors Enrolled in Postsecondary Education by Gender and Year, 2010 to 2014

	2012			2013			2014		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
1.	Goshen	Albany	Goshen	Albany	Albany	Goshen	Albany	Albany	Park
2.	Albany	Platte	Park	Goshen	Weston	Park	Park	Weston	Albany
3.	Park	Goshen	Albany	Weston	Platte	Albany	Laramie	Laramie	Sublette
4.	Laramie	Johnson	Weston	Park	Laramie	Johnson	Weston	Johnson	Goshen
5.	Weston	Laramie	Hot Springs	Platte	Park	Hot Springs	Johnson	Teton	Hot Springs
6.	Platte	Converse	Laramie	Laramie	Natrona	Laramie	Teton	Park	Johnson
7.	Johnson	Weston	Johnson	Johnson	Goshen	Sublette	Goshen	Natrona	Big Horn
8.	Converse	Washakie	Niobrara	Teton	Teton	Platte	Platte	Platte	Laramie
9.	Sheridan	Lincoln	Sheridan	Converse	Lincoln	Teton	Lincoln	Washakie	Teton
10.	Washakie	Park	Carbon	Wyoming	Converse	Weston	Wyoming	Goshen	Sheridan
11.	Teton	Teton	Converse	Natrona	Johnson	Carbon	Washakie	Lincoln	Crook
12.	Wyoming	Natrona	Wyoming	Sheridan	Wyoming	Converse	Big Horn	Wyoming	Lincoln
13.	Natrona	Sheridan	Platte	Big Horn	Sheridan	Wyoming	Natrona	Converse	Wyoming
14.	Hot Springs	Crook	Teton	Lincoln	Washakie	Big Horn	Sweetwater	Sweetwater	Platte
15.	Carbon	Big Horn	Sublette	Sublette	Big Horn	Sheridan	Crook	Niobrara	Campbell
16.	Niobrara	Wyoming	Washakie	Hot Springs	Sweetwater	Sweetwater	Converse	Crook	Sweetwater
17.	Big Horn	Sweetwater	Campbell	Washakie	Crook	Campbell	Sheridan	Sheridan	Uinta
18.	Campbell	Campbell	Natrona	Sweetwater	Niobrara	Fremont	Sublette	Big Horn	Washakie
19.	Lincoln	Carbon	Fremont	Campbell	Campbell	Uinta	Campbell	Campbell	Fremont
20.	Sublette	Hot Springs	Uinta	Carbon	Sublette	Natrona	Niobrara	Uinta	Converse
21.	Sweetwater	Uinta	Big Horn	Niobrara	Hot Springs	Washakie	Uinta	Fremont	Carbon
22.	Crook	Sublette	Sweetwater	Crook	Carbon	Lincoln	Hot Springs	Sublette	Weston
23.	Uinta	Niobrara	Lincoln	Fremont	Uinta	Niobrara	Fremont	Carbon	Natrona
24.	Fremont	Fremont	Crook	Uinta	Fremont	Crook	Carbon	Hot Springs	Niobrara

Source: Custom extract from the Workforce Data Quality Initiative database.

to 41% (3,275) while the percentage of females and males remained the same. The percentage of females enrolled in postsecondary education increased from 2010 to 2011 in 12 counties, while the percentage of males enrolled in postsecondary education increased in eight counties (see the Table, page 17). This increase in postsecondary enrollment could be the result of students going into the workforce and enrolling in postsecondary education to get additional training in their chosen field or postponing their college enrollment after high school graduation for a semester. Goshen County had the highest percentage of males from the 2010 senior class enroll from 2010 to 2013 while Albany County had the highest percentage of females enroll from 2011 to 2014.

Students in the Workforce

Students who do not enroll in postsecondary education may enter the workforce right away, while students who do enroll in postsecondary education may take longer to begin working. Other students may leave Wyoming or move to a state with which R&P

does not have a data sharing agreement, and are considered not found for the purposes of this research. The percentage of 2010 seniors enrolled in postsecondary education and working, either in Wyoming or a partner state, was just above 30% and the number of 2010 seniors working and not enrolled in postsecondary education was almost 40% (see Figure 2). By 2014, the number of students enrolled and working dropped below 20% while the number of students not enrolled and working in Wyoming or a partner state increased.

The enrollment status

of students has an effect on wages earned after secondary school. Overall, students not enrolled in postsecondary education tend to earn higher wages than enrolled students.

Conclusion

Wyoming secondary students have many different pathways they can take upon high school completion. Research & Planning has the tools to follow students into postsecondary education and the workforce to understand why students may leave Wyoming, or the labor force in general, and what leads to economic security of Wyoming high school students.

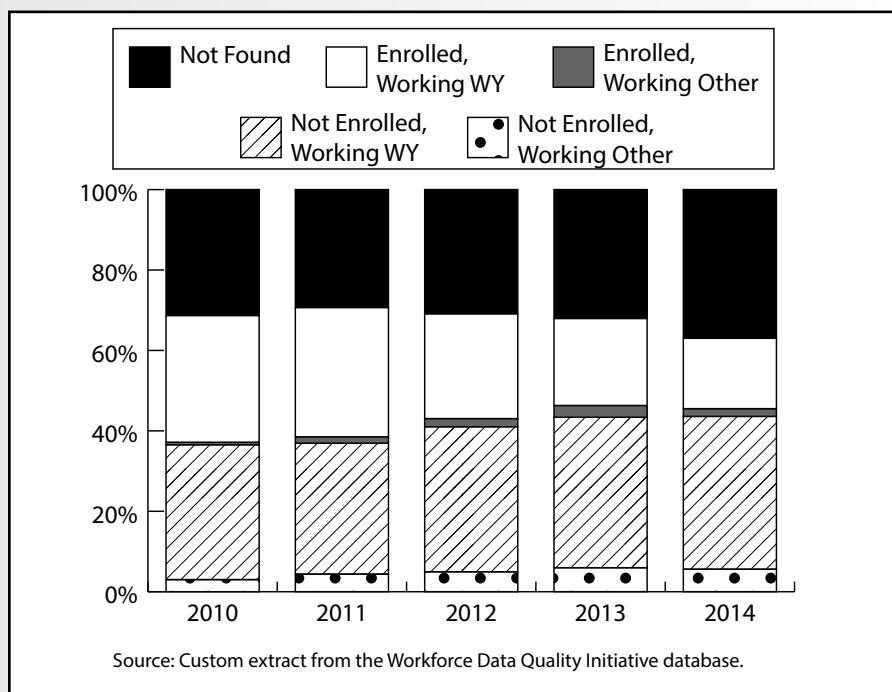


Figure 2: Longitudinal Analysis: Percentage of 2010 Wyoming Seniors in the Workforce by Enrollment Status, 2010 to 2014

Wyoming Short-Term Industry and Occupational Projections, 2015-2017

by: Michael Moore, Editor, and David Bullard, Senior Economist

The newest short-term industry and occupational projections from the Research & Planning (R&P) section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services indicate that Wyoming's job market will contract during the two-year period from 2015 to 2017.

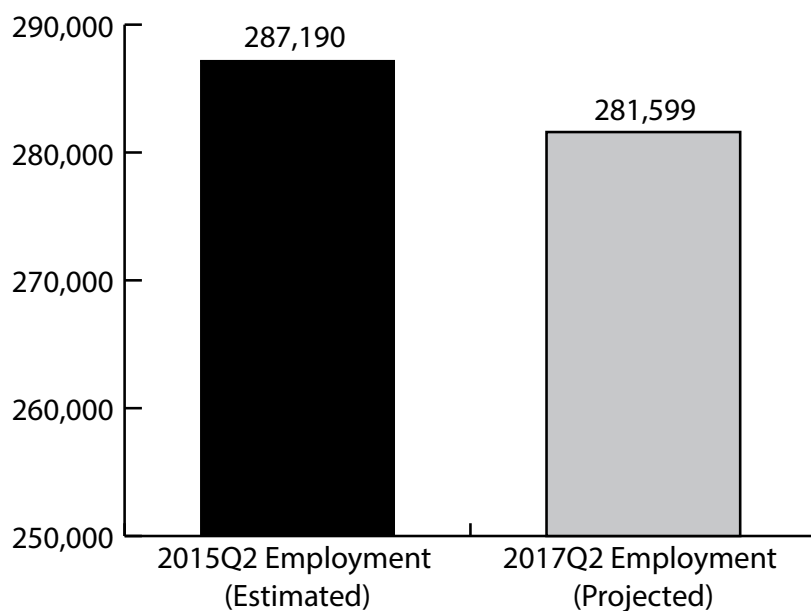
Short-term industry projections indicate that total employment across all industries is expected to decrease by an estimated 5,591 jobs (-1.9%) from 2015 to 2017 (see the Figure). During this two-year period, the most substantial decreases in employment are projected to occur in mining (-3,208, or -13.5%), construction (-2,547, or -10.8%), and transportation and warehousing (-881, or -6.8%). Moderate growth is projected for industries such as retail trade (742, or 2.4%), accommodation & food services (735, or 2.2%), health care & social assistance (607, or 1.9%), and educational services (323, or 1.1%).

Similarly, short-term occupational projections indicate that the most substantial declines are projected for construction &

extraction occupations (-4,090, or -11.1%), transportation & material moving occupations (-1,255, or -5.0%), office & administrative support occupations (-678, or -1.8%), and production occupations (-601, or -4.5%). The Table (see page 20) shows occupational projections at the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) major group two-digit level. Projections for detailed occupations

at the six-digit level are available online at http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/projections/2016/Short_Term_Occs_2017.htm. Moderate growth is projected for food preparation & serving related occupations (431, or 1.6%); education, training, & library occupations (272, or 1.3%); health care practitioners & technical occupations (241, or 1.7%); and personal care & service occupations (198, or 2.2%).

**Projections are available online at
<http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/projections.htm>**



Source: Wyoming Short-Term Industry Projections, 2015-2017
(http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/projections/2016/Short_Term_Ind_2017.htm).

Figure: Wyoming Total Employment Across All Industries, 2015Q2 (Estimated) and 2017Q2 (Projected)

As noted in a recent article in the January 2016 issue of *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, “In the fall of 2015, Wyoming’s economy was exposed to a substantial decline in the prices of oil, an extended period of low natural gas prices, and the erosion in the price of coal” (Moore, 2016). The effects of the diminished demand for natural resources such as coal, oil, and natural gas are reflected in the over-the-year decline noted in that article, and

serve as the basis for these short-term projections.

Reference

Moore, M. (2016). Employment and wage change for selected industries in Wyoming, 2005Q3-2015Q3. *Wyoming Labor Force Trends*, 53(1). Retrieved March 1, 2016, from <http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/trends/0116/a2.htm>

Table: Wyoming Short-Term Occupational Projections at the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 2-Digit Major Group Level, 2015-2017

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Growth Openings		Replacement Openings		Total, All Openings	
		2015Q2 (Estimated)	2017Q2 (Projected)	N	%	Total	Annual	Total	Annual	Total	Annual
00-0000	Total, All Occs.	307,953	301,844	-6,109	-2.0	2,699	1,350	14,777	7,388	17,476	8,738
11-0000	Management Occs.	16,768	16,627	-141	-0.8	149	74	714	357	863	431
13-0000	Business & Financial Operations Occs.	8,782	8,699	-83	-1.0	38	19	355	178	393	197
15-0000	Computer & Math. Occs.	2,882	2,900	18	0.6	26	13	75	38	101	51
17-0000	Architecture & Engineering Occs.	5,290	5,041	-249	-4.7	6	3	253	126	259	129
19-0000	Life, Physical, & Social Science Occs.	4,344	4,288	-56	-1.3	18	9	253	126	271	135
21-0000	Community & Social Service Occs.	4,660	4,698	38	0.8	49	24	187	94	236	118
23-0000	Legal Occs.	2,226	2,162	-64	-2.9	2	1	71	36	73	37
25-0000	Education, Training, & Library Occs.	20,251	20,523	272	1.3	274	137	882	441	1,156	578
27-0000	Arts, Design, Ent., Sports, & Media Occs.	3,984	3,991	7	0.2	51	26	198	99	249	125
29-0000	Health Care Practitioners & Tech. Occs.	14,238	14,479	241	1.7	297	148	566	283	863	431
31-0000	Health Care Support Occs.	6,975	7,071	96	1.4	106	53	287	144	393	197
33-0000	Protective Service Occs.	6,372	6,418	46	0.7	64	32	296	148	360	180
35-0000	Food Prep. & Serving Related Occs.	26,569	27,000	431	1.6	462	231	2,266	1,133	2,728	1,364
37-0000	Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maint. Occs.	14,400	14,507	107	0.7	136	68	554	277	690	345
39-0000	Personal Care & Svc. Occs.	9,168	9,366	198	2.2	200	100	425	212	625	312
41-0000	Sales & Related Occs.	26,247	26,383	136	0.5	362	181	1,724	862	2,086	1,043
43-0000	Office & Admin. Support Occs.	37,995	37,317	-678	-1.8	201	100	1,616	808	1,817	908
45-0000	Farm., Fishing, & Forestry Occs.	1,904	1,939	35	1.8	41	20	103	52	144	72
47-0000	Construction & Extract. Occs.	36,995	32,905	-4,090	-11.1	5	2	1,278	639	1,283	641
49-0000	Installation, Maint., & Repair Occs.	19,270	18,753	-517	-2.7	30	15	868	434	898	449
51-0000	Production Occs.	13,254	12,653	-601	-4.5	52	26	663	332	715	358
53-0000	Transportation & Material Moving Occs.	25,379	24,124	-1,255	-5.0	130	65	1,143	572	1,273	637

Source: Wyoming Short-Term Occupational Projections, 2015-2017 (http://doe.state.wy.us/LMI/projections/2016/Short_Term_Occs_2017.htm).

Wyoming Unemployment Rate Rises to 4.3% in December 2015

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The Research & Planning section of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services reported that the state's seasonally adjusted¹ unemployment rate increased significantly from 4.1% in November to 4.3% in December. Wyoming's unemployment rate was slightly higher than its December 2014 level of 4.2% and much lower than the current U.S. unemployment rate of 5.0%. Seasonally adjusted employment of Wyoming residents decreased, falling by an estimated 2,820 individuals (-1.0%; a statistically significant decrease) from November to December.

From November to December, most county unemployment rates followed their normal seasonal pattern and increased. As colder weather sets in, seasonal job losses are typically seen in construction, professional & business services, and other sectors. The largest unemployment rate increases were seen in Johnson (up from 4.3% to 5.1%), Sublette (up from 4.9% to 5.5%), Big Horn (up from 4.2% to 4.7%), and

Converse (up from 3.8% to 4.3%) counties. Unemployment rates decreased in Teton (down from 6.8% to 4.0%) and Niobrara (down from 3.0% to 2.9%) counties.

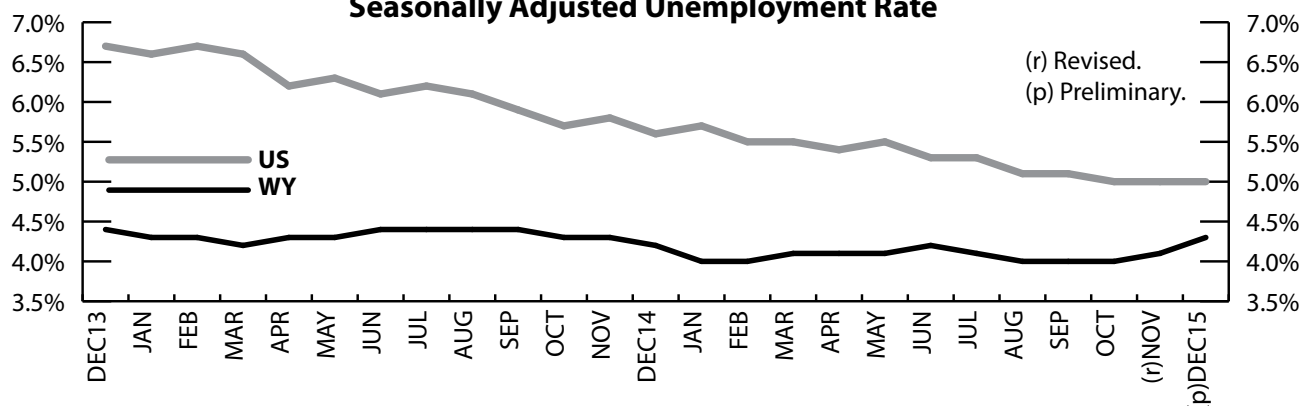
From December 2014 to December 2015, unemployment rates rose in 12 counties and fell in 11 counties. The largest increases occurred in Natrona (up from 3.9% to 5.5%), Converse (up from 3.0% to 4.3%), Campbell (up from 3.2% to 4.3%), and Sweetwater (up from 4.0% to 5.1%) counties. Sizeable unemployment rate decreases were observed in Teton (down from 5.0% to 4.0%), Lincoln (down from 5.3% to 4.8%), and Laramie (down from 4.5% to 4.0%) counties.

The lowest unemployment rates were found in Albany (2.9%), Niobrara (2.9%), Goshen (3.1%), and Weston (3.3%) counties. Fremont County posted the highest unemployment rate (6.0%). It was followed by Natrona (5.5%), Sublette (5.5%), and Uinta (5.2%) counties.

Total nonfarm employment (measured by place of work) fell from 292,300 in December 2014 to 285,800 in December 2015, a decrease of 6,500 jobs (or -2.2%; a statistically significant decrease).

¹ Seasonal adjustment is a statistical procedure to remove the impact of normal regularly recurring events (such as weather, major holidays, and the opening and closing of schools) from economic time series to better understand changes in economic conditions from month to month.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate



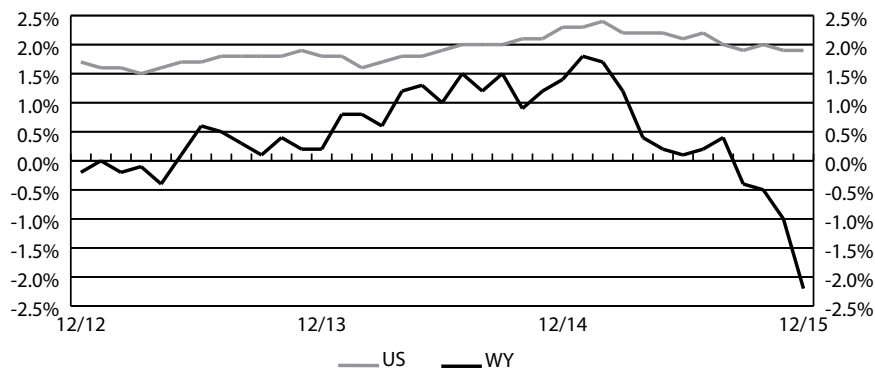
Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates and Research & Planning's Short-Term Projections, December 2015

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

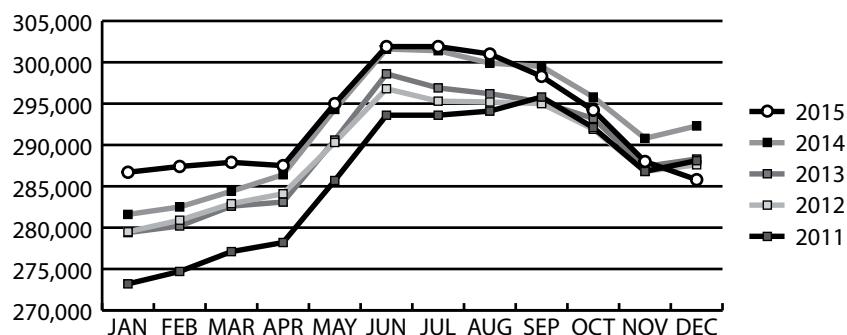
Industry Sector	Research & Planning's Short-Term Projections	Current Employment Statistics (CES) Estimates	N Difference	% Difference
Total Nonfarm Employment	285,902	285,800	-102	0.0%
Natural Resources & Mining	21,182	22,100	918	4.2%
Construction	21,853	22,000	147	0.7%
Manufacturing	9,965	9,900	-65	-0.7%
Wholesale Trade	9,395	9,000	-395	-4.4%
Retail Trade	31,179	29,500	-1,679	-5.7%
Transportation & Utilities	15,757	15,900	143	0.9%
Information	3,799	3,700	-99	-2.7%
Financial Activities	10,999	11,800	801	6.8%
Professional & Business Services	18,101	18,400	299	1.6%
Educational & Health Services	27,494	28,000	506	1.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	34,223	32,700	-1,523	-4.7%
Other Services	9,719	9,600	-119	-1.2%
Government	72,236	73,200	964	1.3%

Projections run in October 2015 and based on QCEW Data through June 2015.

Nonagricultural Employment Growth (Percentage Change Over Previous Year)



Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment



State Unemployment Rates December 2015 (Seasonally Adjusted)

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	12.2
New Mexico	6.7
District of Columbia	6.6
Alaska	6.5
Mississippi	6.4
Nevada	6.4
West Virginia	6.3
Alabama	6.2
Louisiana	6.1
Illinois	5.9
Arizona	5.8
California	5.8
North Carolina	5.6
Tennessee	5.6
Georgia	5.5
South Carolina	5.5
Washington	5.5
Oregon	5.4
Kentucky	5.3
Connecticut	5.2
Maryland	5.1
Michigan	5.1
New Jersey	5.1
Rhode Island	5.1
Delaware	5.0
Florida	5.0
United States	5.0
Arkansas	4.8
New York	4.8
Pennsylvania	4.8
Massachusetts	4.7
Ohio	4.7
Texas	4.7
Indiana	4.4
Missouri	4.4
Wisconsin	4.3
Wyoming	4.3
Virginia	4.2
Oklahoma	4.1
Maine	4.0
Montana	4.0
Idaho	3.9
Kansas	3.9
Vermont	3.6
Colorado	3.5
Minnesota	3.5
Utah	3.5
Iowa	3.4
Hawaii	3.2
New Hampshire	3.1
Nebraska	2.9
South Dakota	2.9
North Dakota	2.7

Wyoming Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

State Unemployment Rates December 2015 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14	Nov 15 Dec 15	Dec 14 Dec 15
CAMPBELL COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	28.3	28.3	29.4	0.0	-3.7
TOTAL PRIVATE	23.0	23.0	24.2	0.0	-5.0
GOODS PRODUCING	10.3	10.4	11.3	-1.0	-8.8
Natural Resources & Mining	7.2	7.2	8.2	0.0	-12.2
Construction	2.5	2.6	2.5	-3.8	0.0
Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	18.0	17.9	18.1	0.6	-0.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.9	5.8	5.9	1.7	0.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	-5.9
Educational & Health Services	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Other Services	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	-11.1
GOVERNMENT	5.3	5.3	5.2	0.0	1.9

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14	Nov 15 Dec 15	Dec 14 Dec 15
SWEETWATER COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	24.0	24.2	25.0	-0.8	-4.0
TOTAL PRIVATE	19.1	19.3	20.1	-1.0	-5.0
GOODS PRODUCING	7.5	7.8	8.5	-3.8	-11.8
Natural Resources & Mining	4.8	4.9	5.5	-2.0	-12.7
Construction	1.4	1.6	1.6	-12.5	-12.5
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.0	-7.1
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.5	16.4	16.5	0.6	0.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	5.2	5.1	5.1	2.0	2.0
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.0	-9.1
Educational & Health Services	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	2.3	2.4	2.3	-4.2	0.0
Other Services	0.7	0.6	0.7	16.7	0.0
GOVERNMENT	4.9	4.9	4.9	0.0	0.0

	Employment in Thousands			% Change Total Employment	
	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14	Nov 15 Dec 15	Dec 14 Dec 15
TETON COUNTY					
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	18.7	16.3	18.2	14.7	2.7
TOTAL PRIVATE	16.2	13.9	15.8	16.5	2.5
GOODS PRODUCING	2.2	2.3	2.1	-4.3	4.8
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	2.0	2.1	1.9	-4.8	5.3
Manufacturing	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
SERVICE PROVIDING	16.5	14.0	16.1	17.9	2.5
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	2.7	2.5	2.6	8.0	3.8
Information	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	0.9	0.8	0.9	12.5	0.0
Professional & Business Services	1.7	1.8	1.7	-5.6	0.0
Educational & Health Services	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	6.9	4.7	6.7	46.8	3.0
Other Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
GOVERNMENT	2.5	2.4	2.4	4.2	4.2

State	Unemp. Rate
Puerto Rico	10.4
Mississippi	7.2
Alaska	6.6
District of Columbia	6.3
New Mexico	6.2
Nevada	6.1
Illinois	5.9
Washington	5.9
West Virginia	5.9
Alabama	5.8
California	5.8
Arizona	5.5
Kentucky	5.5
North Carolina	5.3
South Carolina	5.3
Tennessee	5.3
Georgia	5.2
Oregon	5.2
Connecticut	5.0
Louisiana	5.0
Rhode Island	4.8
United States	4.8
Florida	4.7
New York	4.7
Arkansas	4.6
Indiana	4.6
Maryland	4.6
Massachusetts	4.6
Ohio	4.6
Michigan	4.5
Wyoming	4.5
New Jersey	4.4
Delaware	4.3
Montana	4.3
Texas	4.2
Wisconsin	4.2
Pennsylvania	4.1
Idaho	4.0
Missouri	4.0
Oklahoma	3.9
Virginia	3.9
Maine	3.8
Iowa	3.6
Kansas	3.6
Minnesota	3.6
Colorado	3.3
South Dakota	3.1
Utah	3.1
Vermont	3.1
Hawaii	2.9
New Hampshire	2.9
Nebraska	2.8
North Dakota	2.8

Economic Indicators

by: David Bullard, Senior Economist

The Baker Hughes rig count for Wyoming fell from 58 in December 2014 to 20 in December 2015, a decrease of 65.5%.

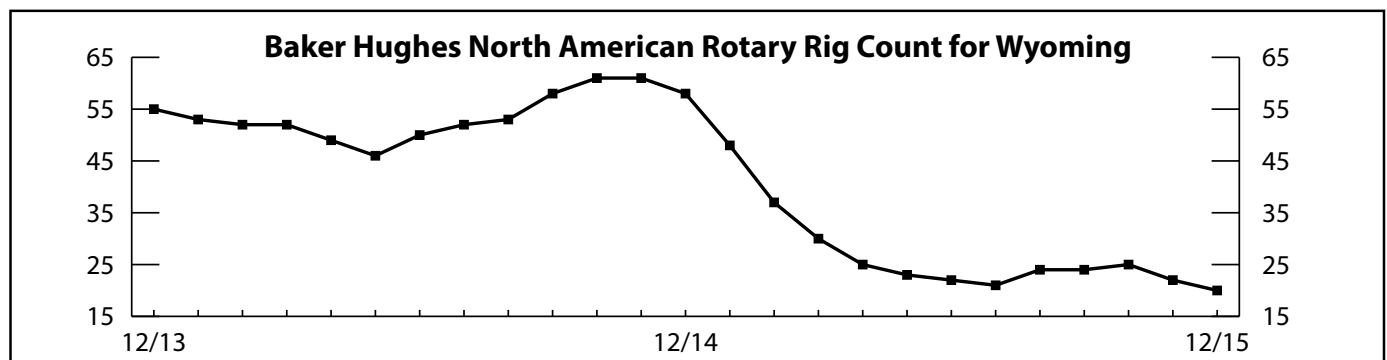
	Dec 2015 (p)	Nov 2015 (r)	Dec 2014 (b)	Percent Change Month	Year
Wyoming Total Nonfarm Employment	285,800	288,000	292,300	-0.8	-2.2
Wyoming State Government	15,900	16,000	15,700	-0.6	1.3
Laramie County Nonfarm Employment	47,300	47,700	47,600	-0.8	-0.6
Natrona County Nonfarm Employment	41,900	42,200	43,200	-0.7	-3.0
Selected U.S. Employment Data					
U.S. Multiple Jobholders	7,855,000	7,596,000	7,308,000	3.4	7.5
As a percent of all workers	5.2%	5.1%	5.0%	N/A	N/A
U.S. Discouraged Workers	663,000	594,000	740,000	11.6	-10.4
U.S. Part Time for Economic Reasons	6,179,000	5,967,000	6,970,000	3.6	-11.3
Wyoming Unemployment Insurance					
Weeks Compensated	27,092	17,063	18,767	58.8	44.4
Benefits Paid	\$10,582,711	\$6,630,242	\$6,649,388	59.6	59.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$390.62	\$388.57	\$354.31	0.5	10.2
State Insured Covered Jobs ¹	276,049	275,785	271,948	0.1	1.5
Insured Unemployment Rate	3.0%	2.4%	2.1%	N/A	N/A
Consumer Price Index (U) for All U.S. Urban Consumers (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Items	236.5	237.3	234.8	-0.3	0.7
Food & Beverages	247.5	247.9	245.6	-0.2	0.8
Housing	239.5	239.3	234.7	0.1	2.1
Apparel	122.8	127.0	123.9	-3.3	-0.9
Transportation	191.5	194.4	199.8	-1.5	-4.1
Medical Care	451.1	451.4	439.7	-0.1	2.6
Recreation (Dec. 1997=100)	115.6	115.8	114.9	-0.1	0.7
Education & Communication (Dec. 1997=100)	139.4	139.5	137.4	-0.1	1.4
Other Goods & Services	418.3	418.4	410.6	0.0	1.9
Producer Prices (1982 to 1984 = 100)					
All Commodities	183.8	185.9	197.0	-1.1	-6.7
Wyo. Bldg. Permits (New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized)					
Total Units	116	123	90	-5.7	28.9
Valuation	\$24,268,000	\$47,114,000	\$25,628,000	-48.5	-5.3
Single Family Homes	91	110	82	-17.3	11.0
Valuation	\$22,206,000	\$46,249,000	\$24,937,000	-52.0	-11.0
Casper MSA ² Building Permits	12	20	8	-40.0	50.0
Valuation	\$2,514,000	\$4,906,000	\$1,511,000	-48.8	66.4
Cheyenne MSA Building Permits	60	22	40	172.7	50.0
Valuation	\$8,874,000	\$4,354,000	\$6,447,000	103.8	37.6
Baker Hughes North American Rotary Rig Count for Wyoming	20	22	58	-9.1	-65.5

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

¹Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program estimates.

²Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Note: Production worker hours and earnings data have been dropped from the Economic Indicators page because of problems with accuracy due to a small sample size and high item nonresponse. The Bureau of Labor Statistics will continue to publish these data online at <http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.wy.htm>.



Wyoming County Unemployment Rates

by: Carola Cowan, BLS Programs Supervisor

The lowest unemployment rates were found in Albany (2.9%), Niobrara (2.9%), Goshen (3.1%), and Weston (3.3%) counties.

REGION	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployed			Unemployment Rates		
	Dec 2015	Nov 2015	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Nov 2015	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Nov 2015	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Nov 2015	Dec 2014
County	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)	(p)	(r)	(b)
NORTHWEST	47,399	48,350	47,727	44,898	45,966	45,356	2,501	2,384	2,371	5.3	4.9	5.0
Big Horn	5,480	5,643	5,609	5,221	5,404	5,353	259	239	256	4.7	4.2	4.6
Fremont	20,414	20,781	20,378	19,192	19,644	19,307	1,222	1,137	1,071	6.0	5.5	5.3
Hot Springs	2,329	2,368	2,426	2,229	2,271	2,326	100	97	100	4.3	4.1	4.1
Park	14,852	15,167	14,991	14,102	14,423	14,233	750	744	758	5.0	4.9	5.1
Washakie	4,324	4,391	4,323	4,154	4,224	4,137	170	167	186	3.9	3.8	4.3
NORTHEAST	52,662	53,618	54,184	50,377	51,471	52,110	2,285	2,147	2,074	4.3	4.0	3.8
Campbell	25,441	25,806	26,384	24,335	24,759	25,547	1,106	1,047	837	4.3	4.1	3.2
Crook	3,510	3,655	3,637	3,378	3,526	3,488	132	129	149	3.8	3.5	4.1
Johnson	3,991	4,097	4,281	3,788	3,919	4,075	203	178	206	5.1	4.3	4.8
Sheridan	15,755	16,025	15,942	15,041	15,353	15,182	714	672	760	4.5	4.2	4.8
Weston	3,965	4,035	3,940	3,835	3,914	3,818	130	121	122	3.3	3.0	3.1
SOUTHWEST	58,828	58,585	59,318	55,993	55,495	56,622	2,835	3,090	2,696	4.8	5.3	4.5
Lincoln	8,249	8,282	7,985	7,855	7,913	7,559	394	369	426	4.8	4.5	5.3
Sublette	4,482	4,635	4,799	4,237	4,409	4,570	245	226	229	5.5	4.9	4.8
Sweetwater	22,568	22,888	23,112	21,423	21,766	22,199	1,145	1,122	913	5.1	4.9	4.0
Teton	13,927	12,991	13,698	13,373	12,113	13,011	554	878	687	4.0	6.8	5.0
Uinta	9,602	9,789	9,724	9,105	9,294	9,283	497	495	441	5.2	5.1	4.5
SOUTHEAST	83,056	84,721	83,690	80,026	81,759	80,364	3,030	2,962	3,326	3.6	3.5	4.0
Albany	21,511	21,967	21,044	20,894	21,329	20,377	617	638	667	2.9	2.9	3.2
Goshen	7,031	7,283	7,294	6,810	7,056	7,057	221	227	237	3.1	3.1	3.2
Laramie	48,525	49,306	49,422	46,577	47,455	47,222	1,948	1,851	2,200	4.0	3.8	4.5
Niobrara	1,272	1,321	1,304	1,235	1,282	1,262	37	39	42	2.9	3.0	3.2
Platte	4,717	4,844	4,626	4,510	4,637	4,446	207	207	180	4.4	4.3	3.9
CENTRAL	58,809	59,891	59,765	55,789	57,030	57,476	3,020	2,861	2,289	5.1	4.8	3.8
Carbon	8,135	8,412	8,101	7,807	8,081	7,760	328	331	341	4.0	3.9	4.2
Converse	8,264	8,396	8,331	7,905	8,080	8,081	359	316	250	4.3	3.8	3.0
Natrona	42,410	43,083	43,333	40,077	40,869	41,635	2,333	2,214	1,698	5.5	5.1	3.9
STATEWIDE	300,752	305,161	304,686	287,081	291,720	291,927	13,671	13,441	12,759	4.5	4.4	4.2
Statewide Seasonally Adjusted										4.3	4.1	4.2
U.S.										4.8	4.8	5.4
U.S. Seasonally Adjusted										5.0	5.0	5.6

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Benchmarked 02/2015. Run Date 01/2016.

Data are not seasonally adjusted except where otherwise specified.

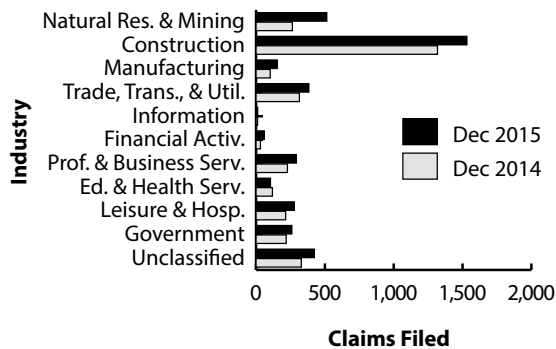
(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised. (b) Benchmarked.

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Initial Claims

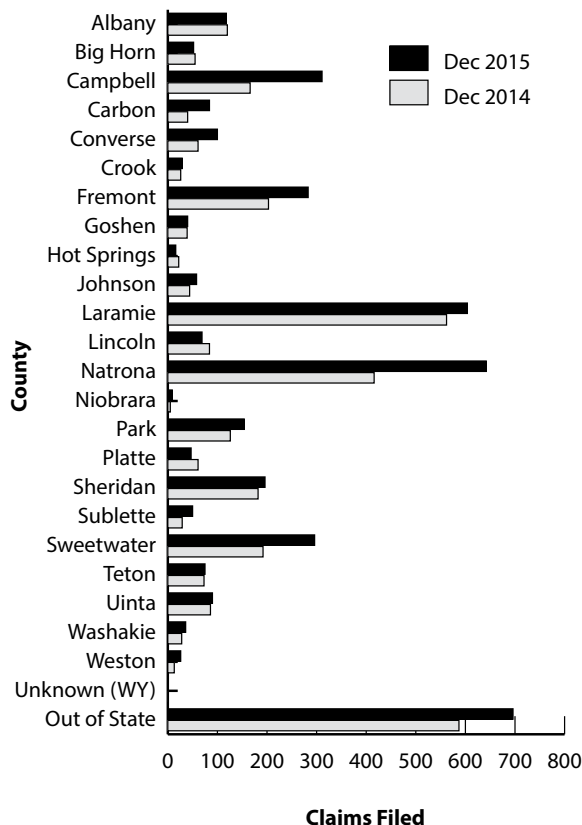
by: Patrick Manning, Principal Economist

Initial claims increased 26.8% (864 claims) from December 2014. Over the year, there were large increases in mining (102.9%, or 250 claims) and manufacturing (49.5%, or 51 claims).

Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, December 2015



Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, December 2015



Initial Claims

Initial Claims	Percent Change Claims Filed				
	Claims Filed		Dec 15 Dec 15		
	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14	Nov 15	Dec 14
	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14	Nov 15	Dec 14
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	4,082	3,803	3,218	7.3	26.8
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	2,202	1,559	1,686	41.2	30.6
Natural Res. & Mining	514	353	264	45.6	94.7
Mining	493	322	243	53.1	102.9
Oil & Gas Extraction	37	70	14	-47.1	164.3
Construction	1,532	1,126	1,318	36.1	16.2
Manufacturing	154	79	103	94.9	49.5
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,196	1,453	982	-17.7	21.8
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	384	405	315	-5.2	21.9
Wholesale Trade	44	70	44	-37.1	0.0
Retail Trade	148	154	116	-3.9	27.6
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	192	181	155	6.1	23.9
Information	12	15	11	-20.0	9.1
Financial Activities	60	53	32	13.2	87.5
Prof. and Business Svcs.	293	279	228	5.0	28.5
Educational & Health Svcs.	105	92	119	14.1	-11.8
Leisure & Hospitality	277	550	215	-49.6	28.8
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	58	53	54	9.4	7.4
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	260	361	219	-28.0	18.7
Federal Government	138	227	135	-39.2	2.2
State Government	20	27	12	-25.9	66.7
Local Government	101	107	71	-5.6	42.3
Local Education	18	12	15	50.0	20.0
UNCLASSIFIED	422	428	329	-1.4	28.3

Laramie County

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	603	442	562	36.4	7.3
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	405	235	341	72.3	18.8
Construction	316	205	296	54.1	6.8
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	150	159	183	-5.7	-18.0
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	72	64	74	12.5	-2.7
Financial Activities	5	7	8	-28.6	-37.5
Prof. & Business Svcs.	41	46	31	-10.9	32.3
Educational & Health Svcs.	10	17	28	-41.2	-64.3
Leisure & Hospitality	16	21	29	-23.8	-44.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	20	23	19	-13.0	5.3
UNCLASSIFIED	26	23	18	13.0	44.4

Natrona County

TOTAL CLAIMS FILED	641	481	415	33.3	54.5
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	372	227	235	63.9	58.3
Construction	265	160	180	65.6	47.2
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	245	228	154	7.5	59.1
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	89	83	51	7.2	74.5
Financial Activities	19	15	1	26.7	1,800.0
Prof. & Business Svcs.	46	57	40	-19.3	15.0
Educational & Health Svcs.	22	15	25	46.7	-12.0
Leisure & Hospitality	49	35	18	40.0	172.2
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	12	8	13	50.0	-7.7
UNCLASSIFIED	11	17	12	-35.3	-8.3

^aAn average month is considered 4.33 weeks. If a month has four weeks, the normalization factor is 1.0825. If the month has five weeks, the normalization factor is 0.866. The number of raw claims is multiplied by the normalization factor to achieve the normalized claims counts.

Wyoming Normalized^a Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Continued Claims

by: Patrick Manning, Principal Economist

Over the year, the number of unique claimants with continued claims increased 37.1%. Continued weeks claimed increased 39.2%. Mining experienced the largest percentage increase in weeks claimed (291.7%).

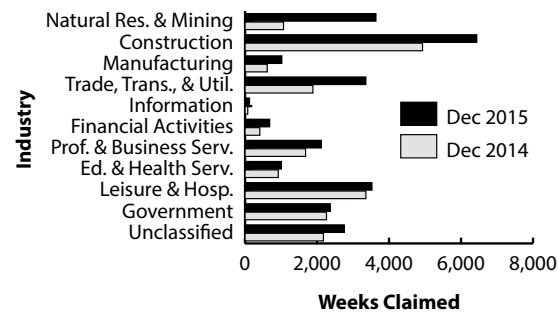
Continued Claims

Continued Claims	Claims Filed			Percent Change Claims Filed	
				Dec 15	Dec 15
	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14	Nov 15	Dec 14
Wyoming Statewide					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	27,479	21,603	19,747	27.2	39.2
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS ^b	7,017	6,415	5,117	9.4	37.1
Benefit Exhaustions	464	396	273	17.2	70.0
Benefit Exhaustion Rates	6.6%	6.2%	5.3%	0.4%	1.3%
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	11,097	7,265	6,617	52.7	67.7
Natural Res. & Mining	3,636	3,205	1,069	13.4	240.1
Mining	3,474	3,124	887	11.2	291.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	492	362	127	35.9	287.4
Construction	6,437	3,137	4,930	105.2	30.6
Manufacturing	1,022	923	616	10.7	65.9
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	11,259	10,749	8,690	4.7	29.6
Trade, Transp., & Utilities	3,356	2,952	1,885	13.7	78.0
Wholesale Trade	835	780	309	7.1	170.2
Retail Trade	1,166	1,114	872	4.7	33.7
Transp., Warehousing & Utilities	1,355	1,058	704	28.1	92.5
Information	124	146	75	-15.1	65.3
Financial Activities	684	553	410	23.7	66.8
Prof. & Business Services	2,119	1,622	1,681	30.6	26.1
Educational & Health Svcs.	1,007	993	922	1.4	9.2
Leisure and Hospitality	3,525	4,087	3,356	-13.8	5.0
Other Svcs., exc. Public Admin.	436	388	355	12.4	22.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	2,368	1,691	2,262	40.0	4.7
Federal Government	1,206	759	1,328	58.9	-9.2
State Government	229	203	188	12.8	21.8
Local Government	932	728	745	28.0	25.1
Local Education	174	199	115	-12.6	51.3
UNCLASSIFIED	2,753	1,896	2,177	45.2	26.5
Laramie County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	2,804	1,819	2,550	54.2	10.0
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	753	557	689	35.2	9.3
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	1,376	558	1,126	146.6	22.2
Construction	1,116	422	935	164.5	19.4
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,080	996	1,114	8.4	-3.1
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	426	318	316	34.0	34.8
Financial Activities	112	115	90	-2.6	24.4
Prof. & Business Svcs.	271	295	336	-8.1	-19.3
Educational and Health Svcs.	163	172	242	-5.2	-32.6
Leisure & Hospitality	102	97	121	5.2	-15.7
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	222	179	226	24.0	-1.8
UNCLASSIFIED	123	84	82	46.4	50.0
Natrona County					
TOTAL WEEKS CLAIMED	4,116	3,288	1,870	25.2	120.1
TOTAL UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	1,050	954	497	10.1	111.3
TOTAL GOODS-PRODUCING	1,938	1,483	823	30.7	135.5
Construction	901	408	620	120.8	45.3
TOTAL SERVICE-PROVIDING	1,977	1,646	904	20.1	118.7
Trade, Transp., and Utilities	777	671	265	15.8	193.2
Financial Activities	169	142	36	19.0	369.4
Professional & Business Svcs.	370	254	248	45.7	49.2
Educational & Health Svcs.	176	182	177	-3.3	-0.6
Leisure & Hospitality	317	264	97	20.1	226.8
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	98	82	73	19.5	34.2
UNCLASSIFIED	100	76	68	31.6	47.1

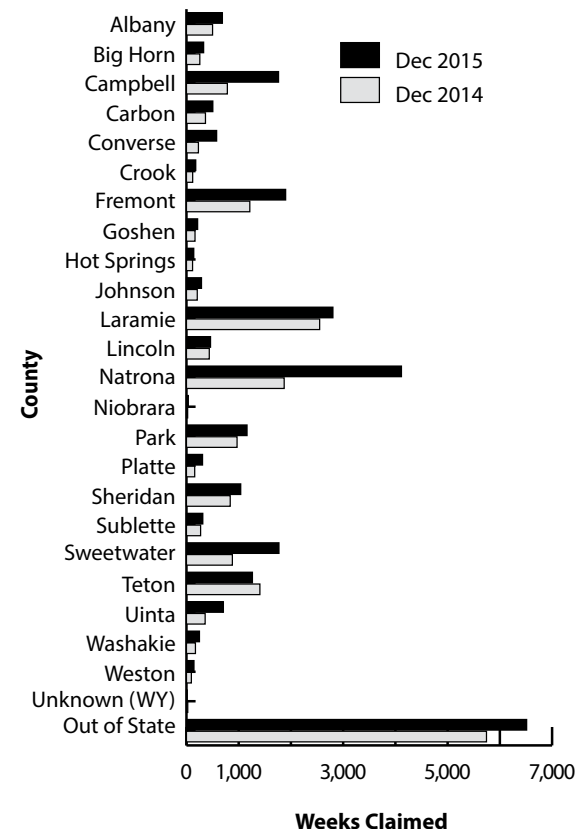
^aAn average month is considered 4.33 weeks. If a month has four weeks, the normalization factor is 1.0825. If the month has five weeks, the normalization factor is 0.866. The number of raw claims is multiplied by the normalization factor to achieve the normalized claims counts.

^bDoes not include claimants receiving extended benefits.

Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by Industry, December 2014



Continued Unemployment Insurance Claims by County, December 2015



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